

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for inhibiting the growth of a cancer cell, comprising treating the cancer cell with an effective amount of abietic acid or derivatives thereof.

5 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the cancer cell is a human cervical carcinoma cell or a human hepatocellular carcinoma cell.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the cancer cell swells and becomes round in morphology after exposure of the abietic acid or derivatives thereof for about 24 hours.

10 4. A composition for inhibiting the growth of a cancer cell, comprising an effective amount of abietic acid or derivatives thereof and a pharmaceutically or physiologically acceptable excipient.

5. The composition of Claim 4, wherein the cancer cell is a human cervical carcinoma cell or a human hepatocellular carcinoma cell.

15 6. The composition of Claim 4, wherein the cancer cell swells and becomes round after exposure of the abietic acid or derivatives thereof for about 24 hours.

7. The composition of Claim 4, which is used as a medicament or a dietary supplement.

20 8. A method for treating a cancer or preventing, alleviating or ameliorating symptoms of the cancer, comprising the step of administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of abietic acid or derivatives thereof.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the cancer is a breast cancer.

10. The method of Claim 8, which reduces the tumor size of the cancer in the subject.

11. The method of Claim 8, wherein the abietic acid or derivatives thereof is orally administrated.

12. A composition for treating a cancer or preventing, alleviating or ameliorating symptoms of the cancer, comprising an effective amount of abietic acid or derivatives thereof and a pharmaceutically or physiologically acceptable excipient.

13. The composition of Claim 12, wherein the cancer is a breast cancer.

14. The composition of Claim 12, which reduces the tumor size caused of the cancer.

15. The composition of Claim 12, which is orally administrated.

16. The composition of Claim 12, which is used as a medicament or a dietary supplement.